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C L A I M S

1. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets based on chitosan or a basic chitosan derivative according to a dripping method, characterized in that

a) an aqueous solution or dispersion is prepared wherein
- chitosan or the basic chitosan derivative
- one or more active substances,
- an acid, having a boiling point of maximally 140°C,
- possibly further auxiliary substances
are present predominantly in solution,

b) the aqueous solution or dispersion is dripped into a cooling liquid having a temperature of maximally -5°C and is thereby solidified in the form of droplets;

c) the solidified droplets or pellets are isolated and

d) dried, and the acid is removed from the pellets.

2. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to Claim 1, characterized in that the drying of the isolated pellets is carried out by means of a freeze-drying process.

3. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cooling liquid has a temperature of less than -15°C.

4. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cooling liquid is a liquefied gas or a liquefied gas mixture.

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5. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cooling liquid is liquid air or liquid nitrogen.

B2 6. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the droplet size is 0.3 to 5 mm in diameter.

7. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the chitosan or chitosan derivative employed has a molar mass of more than 40,000.

8. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the chitosan or chitosan derivative used has a molar mass of more than 75,000.

9. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the chitosan or chitosan derivative used has an acetylation degree of 10 to 50%.

10. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the chitosan or chitosan derivative employed has an acetylation degree of 20 to 45%.

11. Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the basic chitosan derivative is an acylated chitosan.

12. Porous active substance-containing pellets which disintegrate in physiological liquids within several minutes and are based on chitosan or a basic chitosan derivative, characterized in that the pellets are manufactured by means of a process according to one of the preceding claims.

13. Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claim 12, characterized in that they have a zetapotential of +0.5 to +50 mV.

14. Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claims 12 or 13, characterized in that they have an average particle size of 0.3 to 5 mm in diameter.

15. Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claims 12 to 14, characterized in that they have an average particle size of 0.8 to 3 mm in diameter.

16. Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claims 12 to 15, characterized in that for purposes of application they are present in a hard capsule.

17. Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claims 12 to 15, characterized in that prior to intake they are placed in a liquid in which they disintegrate.

18. Use of the pellets according to claims 12 to 17 for manufacturing a medicament or a diagnostic agent.